AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21 and ending on line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 (SEQ ID NOS:4-39) shows exemplary sequences of sequences highly homologous to REF1 from other plants.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 76, line 29 and ending on page 77, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

To determine whether the coding region of the putative *REF1* candidate gene (aldehyde dehydrogenase, At3g24503) was disrupted by a T-DNA insertion, DNA isolated from the *ref1-3* (T-DNA allele) and the wild type ws ecotype and subjected to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using oligonucleotides CC581 (5'-atgagaacggcaaatg-3' (SEQ ID NO:40)) and CC582 (5'-ttacatccaaggggaattgtg-3' (SEQ ID NO:41)). The position of the T-DNA insertion within the *REF1* gene was further delineated using oligonucleotides CC587 (5'-ccacttctcatattcaacgac-3' (SEQ ID NO:42)) and CC588 (5'-gtcgttgaatatgagaagtgg-3' (SEQ ID NO:43)). DNA from *ref1-3* plant was PCR amplified with oligonucleotides CC581 and T-DNA left border primer and sequenced to determine the exact location of the T-DNA integration in the *ref1*-3 mutant. Genomic DNA corresponding to the *REF1* coding region from the rest of the *ref1* alleles (*ref1-1* to *ref1-7*) was PCR amplified as two over lapping fragments using oligonucleotide combinations CC614 (5'-aatccactgcctttgctgac -3' (SEQ ID NO:44)) / CC628 (5'-cggcgcgactcataagaa-3' (SEQ ID NO:45)) and CC620 (5'-aattggagtggttggta -3' (SEQ ID NO:46)) / CC632 (5'-agccgccttattatcattgg-3' (SEQ ID NO:47)). These DNA fragments were sequenced in both directions to identify mutations in the different *ref1* alleles.